

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 IO-14 NEA-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00

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PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 OMB-01 OIC-04 DRC-01 /144 W

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R 261203Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1841

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 4951

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OCON, SEATO

SUBJ: SEATO: VENUE AND TIMING OF 19TH COUNCIL MEETING

CINCPAC ALSO PASS POLAD

REF : BANGKOK 4253 (NOTAL)

1. AS FORECAST REFTEL, SEATO SECGEN SUNTHORN RAISED MATTER OF 19TH COUNCIL MEETING AT COUNCIL REPS MEETING MARCH 26. SECGEN POINTED OUT THAT COUNCIL AT LAST YEAR'S MEETING HAD DIRECTED COUNCIL REPS TO NEGOTIATE TIME AND SITE OF 19TH MEETING IN 1974 AND FURTHER ADDED THAT TWO OPTIONS WOULD APPEAR OPEN; I.E., ANOTHER MEETING IN NEW YORK IN CONJUNCTION WITH UNGA IN SEPT OR A MEETING IN MAY-JUNE TIME FRAME IN ANOTHER MEMBER COUNTRY AS WAS NORMAL PRACTICE PRIOR TO LAST YEAR.

2. ACTING NEW ZEALAND COUNCIL REP SAID GNZ WOULD NOT HOST MEETING BUT WOULD PROBABLY FAVOR ANOTHER NEW YORK SCENARIO OR A MEETING IN BANGKOK. (THAILAND IS NEXT IN LINE TO HOST MEETING AFTER NEW ZEALAND.) THAI COUNCIL REP, ALTHOUGH EXPRESSING
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SUPPORT FOR ANOTHER NEW YORK MEETING, SAID THAT HE WOULD

CONSULT WITH FOREIGN MINISTER AS TO POSSIBILITY OF BANGKOK VENUE. ALL OTHER MEMBERS, WHILE ALSO STATING THAT THEY WOULD SEEK INSTRUCTIONS FROM RESPECTIVE GOVERNMENTS, WERE OF OPINION THAT NEW YORK VENUE WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE. US COUNCIL REP REPLIED THAT HE HAD NO INSTRUCTIONS BUT WOULD REPORT GENERAL INCLINATION FOR NEW YORK FALL VENUE, AS WELL AS POSSIBILITY THAT BANGKOK MIGHT BE ALTERNATIVE, AND SEEK DEPARTMENT'S VIEWS.

3. THAI FONMIN OFFICIALS INFORMED EMBOFF AFTER MEETING THAT THEY THOUGHT RTG WOULD DESIRE COUNCIL MEETING THIS YEAR AND NEW YORK VENUE IN UNGA TIME-FRAME APPEALED TO THEM SINCE IT WOULD BE BEST WAY TO ENSURE CABINET-LEVEL REPRESENTATION (THE SAME ARGUMENT WE USED LAST YEAR WITH THAIS IN CONNECTION WITH 18TH COUNCIL MEETING VENUE AND TIMING).

4. ALTHOUGH EMBASSY FULLY UNDERSTANDS THAT DEPARTMENT WOULD NOT HAVE MADE ANY FINANCIAL ALLOCATION TO HOST A SECOND CONSECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING, WE MAY WELL FIND IT POLITICALLY ADVISABLE TO HOST MEETING IN VIEW OF OUR OVERALL RELATIONS VIS-A-VIS THAILAND. BECAUSE WE DO NOT FORESEE ANY REAL ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS WHICH WOULD REQUIRE COUNCIL CONSIDERATION THIS YEAR, WE THINK THAT MEETING COULD BE LIMITED TO BRIEF EXCHANGE OF VIEWS FOLLOWED BY A LUNCHEON. WE COULD PROPOSE TO SECGEN THAT SUCH A MEETING SHOULD BE MOST AUSTERE AND COULD BE HELD WITHOUT SECRETARIAT SUPPORT.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: DEPARTMENT'S VIEWS ON VENUE AND TIMING OF 19TH COUNCIL MEETING; COUNCIL REPS WILL RETURN TO THIS SUBJECT AT NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED FOR APRIL 24.
KINTNER

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